

IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Three Times Amended) A method of removing a particle from a surface of a
 2 metal plug formed in a via comprising:
 3 introducing a first agent to a metal layer;
 4 polishing the metal layer with the first agent;
 5 after polishing the metal layer, introducing a second agent comprising hydrogen
 6 peroxide to rinse the surface of the metal plug; and
 7 removing at least one particle from the surface of the metal plug.

1 9. (Three Times Amended) A method of removing at least one particle from a
 2 surface of a metal plug disposed over a substrate comprising:
 3 depositing a slurry onto a metal layer over the metal plug;
 4 polishing the metal layer; and
 5 after polishing the metal layer, rinsing the surface of the metal plug with a
 6 solution comprising hydrogen peroxide.

1 18. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:
 2 polishing a metal layer over a conductive plug with a slurry;
 3 after polishing the metal layer, introducing a rinsing solution onto the conductive
 4 plug, the rinsing solution comprises ^{comprising} hydrogen peroxide.

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